JUL 2 6 2004 S

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Alastair M. Reed

Application No.: 10/823,514

Filed: April 12, 2004

For:

HIDING INFORMATION TO REDUCE

OR OFFSET PERCEPTIBLE ARTIFACTS (as amended herein)

Examiner:

Date: July 21, 2004

Art Unit: 2625

Conf. No.: 3267

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER AND THE DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO AS BEING ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED HEREWITH ARE BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE ON July 21, 2004, AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: Mail Stop Missing Parts, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450,

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

Steven W. Stewart Attorney for Applicants

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Missing Parts COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Introductory Comments:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the application as follows: